

Editorial¹

The Behavior Analyst enters its second decade with this issue. The last 10 years have marked an exciting phase in the history of behavior analysis; and it seems fitting that 1988 is also a significant anniversary year for the field's two primary research journals and for publication of *The Behavior of Organisms*, the book that launched the field of behavior analysis.

As the field continues to develop new areas of basic research, to extend its applied research into new domains, to develop its technologies, its conceptual framework and its philosophy of science, a journal "meeting ground" will become ever more important. Behavior analysts will continue to become more specialized as the field grows; but we can remain knowledgeable about the field as a whole and its relation to other sciences through the pages of *The Behavior Analyst*.

Because the greatest threat to the future of behavior analysis may lie in its intellectual isolation from related fields, I take this opportunity to challenge behavior analysts to carry into the pages of this journal their individual efforts to understand our conceptual and substantive relations to other sciences. Behavioral phenomena are clearly both biological and social in nature and behavior analysis should take its rightful place as the science that bridges biology on the one hand and anthropology, sociology, and economics on the other—at least those small pockets of anthropology, sociology, and

economics that are conceptually compatible with behavior analysis.

A few great pioneers in those social sciences have attempted to throw off their mentalistic vassalage and conceive of their subject matter without recourse to "explanation[s] of observed facts which appeal . . . to events taking place somewhere else, at some other level of observation, described in different terms, and measured, if at all, in different dimensions." We have not joined them in shared efforts but have left them to strive alone where we might have helped.

Perhaps, however, we should not be too hard on ourselves. Behavior analysts have tackled, with an unprecedented degree of success, some of the most difficult problems facing our culture—in schools, prisons, factories and mental hospitals. Small numbers of scientists have created a basic science that now grows in many directions at once. Even smaller numbers of conceptual integrators have strained to keep the field in touch with itself.

It is time, though—time to establish behavior analysis as a communicant in the broader scientific enterprise; time to examine the family tree and locate our closest relations; time to work toward integration of our field with the towering (to us) biological sciences (just over 125 years old in their current incarnation!) and the struggling iconoclasts (like us) in the social sciences. *The Behavior Analyst* can serve as a testing ground for exploratory integrative work. Then we must brave the larger world.

¹ I thank Joel Greenspoon for encouraging me to say here what I was inclined to say.

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Editor